

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia,
Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala,
Honduras, Panama, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela
SUBJECT Characteristics of Some Latin American Radio
Stations

DATE OF INFORMATION October 1950 to
November 1951

HOW PUBLISHED 25X6

DATE DIST. 3 November 1951

WHERE PUBLISHED

25X1A

DATE PUBLISHED 25X1X

NO. OF PAGES 15

LANGUAGE

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

CHANGE TO
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
PER REGRADING
BULLETIN NO. 20

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SUMMARY

A. Argentina: Broadcasting over all transmitters reflects the dominating influence of the Peron regime. All stations are required to relay Government-edited newscasts and to make their facilities available to the Government at any time. Emphasis is placed on the personal leadership of Peron and his wife and on the achievements of the regime. The official radio has undergone a considerable expansion during the past two years, cutting deeper into the activities of commercial broadcasters at home and broadening the scope of the International Service for listeners abroad.

B. Brazil: Privately owned radio stations in Brazil, operating side by side with the Government's Radio Nacional, do not appear to have been subjected to any outright censorship under the Vargas regime, although some signs have been observed that the powerful Emissoras Associadas may be growing more cautious in its political reportage. An executive decree issued in July 1951 placing the Radio Technical Commission, Brazilian counterpart of the FCC, under the direct control of the President aroused widespread criticism in Congress as representing a return to the personal authoritarianism of the first Vargas regime, but there has been no indication to date that the decree has affected the status of any radio station.

C. Central America: Radio broadcasting in the Central American republics is organized to a large extent along commercial lines but operates under varying degrees of governmental control. Central American radios, with few exceptions, echo the views and policies of the regimes in power. Prominent treatment is given to the essential historic unity of the Central American countries, although exceptions to the normally friendly exchange of views have occurred during disputes between individual countries, when propaganda wars involving most of the Central American radios have developed. Radio time in Guatemala is leased regularly to Communist or Communist-supported groups.

D. Chile: Broadcasting is relatively free from control in accordance with constitutional guarantees. Legally recognized political parties and groups appear to have equal access to radio time. Emissoras "Nuevo Mundo, following an editorial policy designed to appeal to a man-in-the-street audience, carries frequent criticism of the Government and generally favors activities of the left-of-center parties, as contrasted with the more extensive treatment of activities of rightist parties over the stations of Radio Sociedad Nacional de Agricultura.


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E. Colombia: Radio broadcasting operates under an overt censorship imposed under the state of siege declared in 1949. The political opposition has attempted to make itself heard through the operation of clandestine transmitters in various parts of the country, and the Government has been taking steps to eliminate this type of activity. The Government-operated Radiodifusora Nacional serves as the principal vehicle for presenting news to the home audience from the official viewpoint and as a means of underscoring the legality of official acts and refuting opposition charges.



G. Peru: The radio in Peru serves primarily as a vehicle for enhancing the prestige and power of the Odría regime through the presentation of carefully screened material to the home audience. The official transmitters enjoy a virtual monopoly over the news as the result of strict enforcement of restrictions on the operation of commercial stations. All stations are required to carry daily relays of official newscasts. Similarity has been observed between Peru's Radio Nacional and Argentina's Radio del Estado both as to content and presentation of the news.

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H. Uruguay: Radio broadcasting is characterized by the broad freedom existing in the country for all forms of public expression. There are no governmental controls apart from the Radio Broadcasting Code, although under a revision of the Code enacted in 1946 the Government has the power to take sanctions against those held responsible for the dissemination of material liable to affect Uruguay's friendly relations with other nations. Radio El Espectador, key station in the Difusoras del Uruguay commercial network, leased radio time to all political parties during the 1950 election campaign, apparently with complete impartiality.

I. Venezuela: Monitoring of privately owned Venezuelan radio stations has yielded little in the way of significant material in view of the strict censorship of the press and radio in effect under the regime of the Military Junta. Broadcasts over the Government radio, which constitute only a small fraction of the total radio output, serve primarily as a medium for publicizing official announcements, speeches, and decrees of the Military Junta. Programs for the home audience appear haphazardly edited, with no attempt made to tailor official handouts for listener appeal. In contrast, the few programs beamed abroad seem carefully planned to present Venezuela in the most favorable light and to emphasize the country's attraction for foreign capital.

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A. ARGENTINA

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CONFIDENTIAL1. General Characteristics

a. Government Control: Argentine radio broadcasting over the private as well as the official transmitters has reflected increasingly since the 1943 revolution the dominating influence of the Peron regime. The Government, in addition to constantly broadening the scope of the official Radio del Estado, has covertly purchased control of all except one of the private stations. Commercial broadcasting is permitted to continue so long as it adheres to the broadcasting code formulated in 1944 and periodically revised since then. The "private" stations and networks are required to hook up with Radio del Estado several times daily for transmission of the official news bulletins and at such other times as the Government may desire to utilize their facilities.

There is no official precensorship of broadcasts but the Government manages to exercise a kind of censorship by requiring commercial sponsors to refrain from broadcasting domestic news until it has been carried over the official radio, which receives its news hand-outs directly from the Undersecretariat of Information. Swift official action is taken when broadcasts include material lacking official sanction. On-the-spot audience-participation programs were banned in June 1950 after a contestant slighted the Eva Peron Social Aid Foundation.

The Essc reporter newscast, sponsored by the Argentine subsidiary of Standard Oil of New Jersey, an established feature over the Buenos Aires Radio Belgrano station for more than a decade, was discontinued on Oct. 1, 1951, apparently as the result of the manner in which the Essc Reporter handled news of the abortive Sept. 28, 1951 military revolt against the Peron regime. The Esso Reporter program, which contained news from the UNITED PRESS wire service, was supplanted over Radio Belgrano by a program of news credited to the newly established AGENCIA PERIODISTICA ARGENTINA, the INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE, and the AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE. Radio Belgrano had for some time been the only Argentine station carrying Essc Reporter programs.

The Government's control of the broadcasting industry's labor unions provides it with an additional powerful weapon through which it can exert pressure on broadcasters. Control is exercised also through the Argentine Radio Broadcasting Association, which, organized originally to represent the private radio industry vis-a-vis the Government, has now virtually become a spokesman for the Government.

In the political realm the radio is reserved almost exclusively for the use of the Government and the Peronista Party, although theoretically the opposition parties have free access to radio facilities. Latin American radio stations outside of Argentina have broadcast a number of reports on the filing by opposition parties of requests for radio time during the current 1951 election campaign, but as of this writing only the Peronista Party has been able to obtain time for radio campaigning.

The radio has been used as a weapon to combat such opposition as still exists in the Argentine press. Prior to the closing down of LA PRENSA, Buenos Aires radios carried strong attacks on the paper, refuting its editorials point by point. Attention shifted to LA NACION with a broadcast on Aug. 3 over Radio del Estado, censuring the paper's failure to repudiate the acts of violence and sabotage on the Argentine railways and charging the newspaper with "tacit complicity" in the affair. (Page A 2 of the Aug. 6, 1951 FBID Daily Report)

b. Portrayal of Leaders: Constant emphasis on the personal leadership of President Peron and Eva Peron is a feature of all Argentine broadcasts, with approximately 20 percent of the time on an average news program devoted to detailing the daily activities of the President and his wife. Peron is depicted as an intensely busy man, arriving at his office before 7 every morning and not retiring until late in the evening.

Eva Peron is pictured daily at her desk in the Labor Ministry interviewing labor delegates, settling trade union disputes, accepting donations for her Foundation, and ordering social welfare and relief measures for distressed persons. Stress is laid on the worldwide scope of her social welfare activities.

Peron is referred to variously as "President of the Republic," "President of the Nation," "the Chief Executive," or simply "Gen. Peron." On special occasions when he is addressing public meetings he is generally introduced as "President of the Argentines," "Leader of the Argentine Workers," or "Leader of the Descamisados." Sra. Peron is referred to in news reportage as the "wife of the Chief Executive, Sra. Eva Peron," or, less frequently, as "Dona Maria Eva Duarte de Peron." At public rallies she is introduced as "the First Lady of Argentina" or "the Lady of Hope."

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c. Glorification of the Regime: Newscasts carry frequent statements by prominent persons, both Argentine and foreign, praising the achievements of Peron's "justicialista" regime. Statistics are broadcast purporting to show the vast economic benefits accruing to labor through Government measures, and messages of support and gratitude from civic, professional, and labor groups are read periodically. Stress is placed on Argentina's "third position," neither capitalist nor Communist, in which capital and labor work constructively for the national welfare and contribute to the building of a united country that is a force for peace in the world.

d. Standardization of Language: When the official Radio del Estado came into its own with the 1943 revolution, a campaign was begun to "clean up" radio shows and improve the language used over the air. All Argentine stations now present the news in a pattern and language that may be described as standard, departing more and more from the racy Argentine national idiom and approaching pure Castillian. In style and delivery the Argentine radio now parallels to a great extent Franco's Radio Nacional de Espana.

2. Radio del Estado

a. Expansion of the Official Network: The continued expansion and strengthening of the official radio is indicated by the readjustment and distribution in September 1950 of Argentina's radio frequencies so as to provide wider scope for broadcasts of the expanding Government network and by the inauguration in October 1950 of a new 100-kilowatt international transmitter by Radio del Estado. During the past year and a half Radio del Estado has cut deeper into the activities of commercial broadcasters by featuring radio entertainment in competition with private networks and by broadcasting lengthy programs of popular music. So far the official Government radio has accepted no advertisements from private commercial sponsors.

b. The Home Service: The official news bulletins, edited by the Undersecretariat of Information, periodically open with brief commentaries lauding the Government's achievements or quoting statements by Peron, followed by the routine reportage of the activities of Peron and his wife, governmental actions, official appointments, and economic data. No news from abroad is broadcast. Opposition activity is mentioned only in connection with Government action against it.

The avowed function of Radio del Estado's broadcasts for the home audience is to report on the Government's work. A request by the opposition Union Civica Radical for the use of official radio facilities during the 1951 election campaign was turned down by the Minister of the Interior on the grounds that Radio del Estado carries no political propaganda. The party was advised that it was free to contract with "privately" owned stations for radio time. In an evident attempt to support this concept of a free private radio industry operating free from official restraint, President Peron scheduled special campaign speeches during the week preceding the November 1951 elections for broadcast over the "private network of Argentine broadcasting stations."

c. Programs for Listeners Abroad: The Argentine Government has in the past two years undertaken an extensive cultural and propaganda program for listeners abroad in various languages including Spanish, Portuguese, English, French, Italian, German, and Swedish, utilizing the shortwave facilities of Radio Splendid, Radio Belgrano, and Radio El Mundo in addition to those of Radio del Estado. Following the addition of the new transmitter in October 1950, the service was expanded and is still being reorganized. Formerly known as Servicio Radiofonico Internacional (SRI), it is now designated Servicio Internacional Radiofonico Argentino (SIRA), and all stations carrying the programs announce as IRA, the call letters of the Government radio, regardless of frequency or transmitter used.

The pattern of these programs generally follows that of the Home Service broadcasts, with the emphasis always on the growing strength of Argentina, Government achievements, Argentina's "third position," and her role as a force for peace. Domestic controversial subjects are not mentioned. They differ from the Home Service in that news of other Latin American countries, carefully screened to point up unrest, labor troubles, and economic difficulties in the neighboring republics, is included. Particular emphasis is placed on reports of this nature from Chile and Uruguay. Always implicit is the contrast with Argentina, where conditions are described in the most optimistic terms.

The programs in the International Service appear well-planned and carefully edited, and comparisons have shown the quality of translations from Spanish to be competent.

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B. BRAZIL

Approved For Release 2001/09/06 : CIA-RDP78-04864A00020006

1. General Characteristics

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a. Freedom of Broadcasting: Since Vargas' assumption of power as President of Brazil, there has been no indication that the privately owned broadcasting stations, operating side by side with the Government-owned Radio Nacional, have been subjected to outright censorship of any kind. A Federal regulation providing that all stations must grant equal time to all political parties, introduced in the Lower House under the Dutra administration several months prior to the presidential election, appeared to have carried and to have been in effect during the election campaign, and criticism of Government policies continues to be reported freely over the private networks.

b. Tightening of Government Control: The Government's power to control broadcasting activities, however, was strengthened considerably through the issuance of a presidential decree on July 20, 1951, revising the regulations governing the country's radio stations and placing the Radio Technical Commission, Brazilian counterpart of the Federal Communications Commission, under the direct control of the President. The decree, which was designed "to raise the cultural, artistic, and moral level of Brazilian radio broadcasting by imparting to it a prestige commensurate with its educational and social importance," provides, among other things, that permits for the operation of radio stations may be revoked by the Government in the interest of "public safety" and stipulates that station concessionaires must obtain prior authorization from the President in the event of the sale or transfer of shares or obligations from one firm or individual to another.

c. Reaction to Radio Decree: Reaction to the decree was immediate, particularly on the part of the congressional opposition. Senator Hamilton Nogueira, spokesman for the Uniao Democratica Nacional (UDN), charged that by this decree the President had returned to the personal authoritarianism of the first Vargas administration. Other UDN leaders charged that Vargas had usurped the functions of Congress. In reply, the president of the Lower House maintained that the sole purpose of the decree had been to modify regulations which had been in existence since 1932. Heated debate on the issue continued, with one UDN Deputy pointing out that in the event that his party wished to acquire a radio station, it would now have to depend upon the President's good will. The chairman of the UDN charged that the decree had been framed by the organizers of the former Department of Press and Propaganda with the clear aim of holding the threat of presidential action over all of the country's radio stations.

The Government's Radio Nacional, meanwhile, praised the new regulations, terming the decree a "profound patriotic measure aimed, above all, at maintaining national security."

Despite the potential threat to freedom of broadcasting contained in the decree, there has been no sign to date that it has affected the status of any Brazilian radio station. There has, however, been some indication that the big Emissoras Associadas chain, owned by lawyer-journalist Assis Chateaubriand and constituting the largest privately controlled radio network in the country, may be growing more cautious in its broadcasts of political news and comment. Lengthy analyses of the political situation, broadcast regularly under the Dutra administration, have been heard less and less frequently in recent months. Although the Associadas stations devoted considerable time to reportage on congressional criticism of the radio decree, they carried no station editorials on the subject.

2. Radio Nacional

a. The Administration's Viewpoint: The Government-operated Radio Nacional in Rio de Janeiro serves to a large extent as a medium for bringing the political views and policies of the administration before the public. It broadcasts official acts, decrees, and regulations, reviews congressional proceedings in some detail, and from time to time broadcasts editorials and commentaries on the accomplishments of the Government.

Continuing a policy initiated under the first Vargas administration, Radio Nacional broadcasts a daily half-hour official newscast which is relayed by all Brazilian stations as well as by special additional transmitters. This program, called "Information Bulletin" under the Dutra administration, is now announced as "The Voice of Brazil."

Although Radio Nacional's reportage of political events was slanted to favor the Government's views, ample time was provided to the opposition parties under the Dutra administration to expound their political programs. Under the present regime, Radio Nacional gives wider treatment to political items reflecting the views of the Government and devotes correspondingly less time to reporting opposition activities. While on July 23, 1951, three days after the issuance of the Vargas decree regulating broadcasting activities, Radio Nacional described the measure as "a decree which has garnered the greatest praise" and "a safeguard to our educational functions inasmuch as it places them under state care," it reported none of the widespread criticism which the decree aroused in Congress.

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b. News Sources: Radio Nacional uses the news-gathering facilities of the Government-controlled AGENCIA NACIONAL, the independent ASAPRESS (AGENCIA SUL AMERICANA DE NOTICIAS), and the pro-Government newspapers A NOITE and A MANHA for its national and local coverage. News from abroad is consistently credited to the UNITED PRESS.

c. Programs for Listeners Abroad: There appears to have been no attempt in Brazil to develop an international service comparable in any degree to that undertaken by Argentina. Radio Nacional has for a number of years carried a brief daily program in Spanish for Latin American listeners and in English for listeners in the United States, but sampling of these programs has yielded little in the way of significant news. The English programs contain descriptive material and economic data of a general nature, amateurishly translated from original Portuguese-language scripts and read by inexperienced announcers. The Spanish-language programs, more competently edited and presented, consist largely of travelogues, music, and cultural features.

3. The Emissoras Associadas

a. National Coverage: Programs monitored over the Rio and Sao Paulo stations of Chateaubriand's Associadas network provide fuller over-all coverage of national affairs than that of the Government station. Both the Rio and Sao Paulo stations carry daily except Sunday an hour-long "Newspaper of the Air" containing detailed reports on developments throughout the country as well as brief world news reports. Aside from their apparently more cautious approach to political reportage, these stations have made very few changes in the pattern and content of their news programs under the Vargas regime.

b. News Sources: The Chateaubriand stations use their own nationwide telegraphic service, the MERIDIONAL news agency, plus the news-gathering facilities of Chateaubriand's DIARIOS ASSOCIADOS newspaper chain for their national news. World news reports are credited to the UNITED PRESS. Although both the Rio and Sao Paulo stations derive their news from the same sources, the Rio station tends to give fuller play to the policies of the major conservative parties, while the Sao Paulo station favors the state administration in Sao Paulo.

C. CENTRAL AMERICA

1. General Characteristics

a. Government Control: Radio broadcasting in the Central American countries is organized to a large extent along commercial lines and operates under varying degrees of governmental supervision. Although the extent of actual control varies greatly, Central American radios, with few exceptions, echo the views and policies of the regimes in power. When an administration changes hands, the policies of the radio stations in the country generally shift accordingly. In times of emergency the governments take over the operation of broadcasting facilities outright.

b. Concept of Unity: Newscasts and commentaries monitored over Central American radios give prominent treatment to the affairs of the Caribbean area as a whole and contain frequent reference to the basic historical unity of the various countries. Commentators discuss freely the affairs of neighboring republics, usually in a spirit of constructive criticism and as a rule avoiding political issues entirely or treating them with extreme caution.

c. Propaganda Wars: Exceptions to the normally friendly exchange of views have occurred during the disputes between Central American countries such as the incident in the spring of 1950 involving the alleged manhandling of Salvadoran athletes at the Central American Olympic Games in Guatemala City. Charges, countercharges, and lengthy denials and refutations were broadcast by both countries. Honduran broadcasts appealed to both sides for calm and reconciliation, although their presentation of the incident was slanted to favor of El Salvador, while at least one Costa Rican radio station took the occasion to broadcast reports about a proposed Central American alliance against Guatemala. During the summer of 1951, the Guatemalan radio carried a number of reports designed to illustrate the country's close ties with El Salvador, based on common ideals and interests.

A similar propaganda war involving all the Central American radios occurred during the Caribbean Legion affair, in which Nicaragua and Guatemala particularly were involved.

More recently, during the summer of 1951, the Dominican radio carried on an intensive propaganda campaign against Cuba, charging Cuban lobbyists in Washington with maneuvering to perpetuate a system of privilege in sugar quotas to the detriment of the Dominican Republic.

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d. Technical Qualities: Many Central American radio stations operate outside the authorized international broadcast bands, since they are unable, with their low power, to compete with the interference normally experienced in those bands. Short-wave relays of broadcasts over Central American transmitters are often handled haphazardly: Time schedules are erratic and short-wave transmitters are sometimes put on in the middle of a program. The transmitters vary their frequency often, and programming over many of the stations is subject to constant change.

2. Costa Rica

a. Freedom of Broadcasting: The Ulate Government appears to have followed a broadly liberal policy in the field of radio broadcasting. Although newscasts emphasize Government actions and policies, ample time is given to reports on the views of the political opposition, usually followed by refutations from official sources.

b. La Voz de la Victor: The commercially operated San Jose station TIPG, controlled by Perry Gorton, broadcasts domestic news credited to the DIARIO DE COSTA RICA, owned by President Ulate, and to the independent San Jose dailies LA NACION and EL PAIS. Emphasis is placed on economic developments. Trade union news is reported factually, with stress on the anti-Communist nature of the labor movement. Care is taken to point up the Government's pro-democratic orientation in the field of international relations, its support of the United Nations, and its friendly relations with the United States.

The station carries a daily rebroadcast of the Voice of America and an English-language "Daily Press Information Service" program. A daily half-hour Catholic program is also scheduled.

World news, apparently taken direct from various wire services, is read without comment. News affecting Central America as a whole, particularly in the economic realm, is given in detail.

Programs are haphazardly edited and poorly organized. Items appear to be read in their original newspaper form, with no attempt made to tailor them for radio. The reading of the news, usually broken into short periods of domestic and foreign items, is interspersed with lengthy commercials, and newscasts contain frequent apparently inadvertent repetitions of the same item. Announcers seem poorly trained: Their Spanish is ungrammatical and pronunciation of foreign names frequently incorrect.

3. The Dominican Republic

La Voz Dominicana: Owned and operated by J. Arismendy Trujillo Molina, Ciudad Trujillo station HI2T carries a preponderance of material designed to exalt President Trujillo as the savior of the country and a world statesman of outstanding stature. A daily commentary hour carries talks in Spanish by commentator Arturo E. Mejia, generally on world affairs but including frequent references to the greatness of Trujillo's accomplishments, alternating with talks in English beamed to English-speaking countries, generally designed to depict the Dominican way of life, history, or tourist attractions.

Newscasts devote most of the broadcast time to reports of purely local interest, with the stress on economic development. Labor news is seldom mentioned. Government decrees and measures in favor of industry and agriculture are read in full, and newscasts are heavily weighted with reports on popular tributes to the President, demands for his reelection, and benefits accruing to the people through his policies.

The campaign against Cuba during the summer of 1951, as vehement as it was inconsistent, described Cuba as a "vassal" of the United States while at the same time "exposing" the "close connections and similar affiliation" of the Governments of Cuba and Guatemala. President Prío's visits to Guatemala were cited as evidence that Cuba is "the center of Communist activities in the Western Hemisphere" and that the country is run by "unscrupulous politicians" who use the people's money to enrich "those elements of marked Communist tendencies who have seized power in Guatemala and who act as associates of the Havana clique." In a series of violent diatribes against U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Edward Miller, charging him with partiality in favor of Cuba, commentators took pains to point out that Miller's statements were not to be considered representative of U.S. policy as a whole.

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a. Government Control: Radio broadcasting in Guatemala appears to operate on a free and uncensored basis, subject to the usual broadcasting code and to various libel, emergency, and election laws which apply equally to all stations. Although the largest and most powerful transmitters are owned by the Government, all the stations operate on a commercial basis, leasing out radio time for commercially sponsored programs, announcements, and entertainment.

The Government has been found to take control of broadcasting only in times of national emergency, such as the political disturbances of July and August 1950. The declared policy of the Government to allow unrestricted freedom of speech during the two months preceding the Nov. 10, 1950 presidential election was announced over the radio on several occasions, as was the Government's intention to observe strictly the provisions of the electoral code under which radio time on all stations must be made available to every legitimate political party.

b. The Government Radio: The powerful Government station TGWA, La Voz de Guatemala, carries several complete programs of foreign and domestic news daily for the home audience in addition to special programs designed to enlist support for the regime. Newscasts are sponsored by Government agencies such as the Production Development Institute and the Information and Public Relations Department of the Institute of Public Welfare, and each program includes announcements publicizing the work of the sponsoring agency and urging endorsement and support of Government projects such as the trade union unification program and the plan for unification of the pro-Government revolutionary parties.

Station commentaries serve as vehicles for refuting domestic and foreign anti-Government propaganda, defending the Guatemalan cause in international disputes, and pointing up the gains made in the field of civil rights, labor legislation, and education under the present regime. Constant emphasis is placed on the Government's respect for democratic freedoms. Originators of charges that the regime is Communist-inspired are branded "foreign imperialists," "capitalist interventionists who want to restore feudalism to Guatemala," or "native feudal servants of the foreign companies who want to resume control of Guatemala."

Trade union news is reported in detail, slanted to point up the workers' support for the Arbenz regime. During the crippling national railroad strike this year, despite the fact that the Government kept the lines in operation, the "low salaries and dire working conditions imposed by the foreign-owned Central American Railroad" were played up. Special programs on workers' activities are broadcast, as are meetings during which labor leaders denounce "the foreign imperialists who are exploiting the Guatemalan workers."

Communist or Communist-supported groups such as the Guatemalan Democratic Youth Alliance and the Committee for Aid to the Spanish Republic receive regular radio time over the official transmitters, and news concerning the drive of the National Partisans of Peace for signatures to the World Peace Appeal is reported regularly and at considerable length on the official newscasts.

The "Belize Hour," broadcast three times weekly over La Voz de Guatemala, urges Hondurans in Belize to oust the "British colonial imperialists" from a territory rightfully belonging to Guatemala.

Emphasis is placed on the existence of normal friendly relations between Guatemala and the United States and on Guatemala's adherence to the United Nations and leadership of the smaller nations in U.N. councils.

5. Honduras

a. Regulation of Broadcasting: There is apparently no overt Government censorship of Honduran radio emissions during normal times. Broadcasting stations operate on a commercial basis under the usual broadcasting code regulations. They are generally restrained in their references to Government activities and programs, and their news reportage and commentaries usually reflect a marked pro-Government bias.

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b. La Voz de Honduras: HRN Tegucigalpa, owned and operated by Rafael Ferrari, carries newscasts consisting of competently edited summaries of domestic and world news, presented in a straightforward manner. Emphasis in domestic news coverage is on governmental activities and economic developments. News relating to the political situation at home is seldom broadcast, and newscasts generally contain a preponderance of social notes, reports on diplomatic arrivals and departures, and cultural activities. International news, apparently obtained from several wire services, is generally given in considerable detail.

Commentaries broadcast by La Voz de Honduras are often Spanish-language editions of U.S. wire-service syndicated commentaries on world affairs, datelined New York or Washington. Commentaries on Honduran affairs generally avoid political topics, dealing instead with economic or cultural activities. Treatment of disputes involving other Central American countries is as a rule conciliatory in nature, with stress on the traditional friendship existing among all Latin American countries.

The station's commentaries and domestic news reports are credited to the Tegucigalpa daily EL DIA, whose editorial staff apparently prepares the broadcasts.

6. Panama

Government Control: Radio broadcasting in Panama, although organized on a commercial basis, appears to operate largely in conformance with Government policy and views. Radio stations seldom carry material unfavorable to the Government.

Control was visibly tightened under the Arias regime, as was evidenced by the suppression of a program over the Panama City station Radio Balboa sponsored by exiled Peruvian Apristas and Venezuelan Accion Democratica elements. Material intercepted following Arias' return to power indicated that these and similar programs had been banned on the grounds that they were offensive to the Governments of other American states and damaging to Panama's friendly relations with her neighbors.

D. CHILE

1. General Characteristics

a. Ownership of Stations: The great majority of Chilean radio stations are operated commercially by corporations or private owners. Certain Government departments operate radio stations for their special needs, but these serve technical or administrative rather than political purposes. There is no official station serving as a mouthpiece for the Government, and none of the commercial stations appears to be utilized for this purpose.

b. Government Control: Broadcasting is relatively free from control in accordance with constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech and of the press. Censorship per se does not exist, although the Government has on occasion used its powers to curb or regulate broadcasting activities in the national interest. A lengthy statute on control of radio communications governs all radio broadcasting, and additional controls were established in September 1949 over the transmission of cultural programs and the length of commercials. The use of names of persons, commercial products, or nations to designate radio stations is prohibited.

Radio stations are apparently obliged to broadcast official programs or speeches in hook-up when this is deemed necessary, but the Government has seldom availed itself of the privilege. Chilean news programs are characterized by a lively interest in domestic politics, and legally recognized political parties appear to have equal access to radio time.

2. Emisoras Nuevo Mundo

a. Editorial Policy: Santiago short-wave station Ch1174, controlled by Orlandini and Raggio, Ltd., follows an editorial policy evidently designed to appeal to a man-in-the-street audience and appears to have a marked pro-labor bias. The station disavows influence from any political party or group, affecting the role of guardian of the people's interests. Activities of all political parties are reported extensively, although particular attention is devoted to the left-of-center parties. The station is patently anti-Communist, giving highly colored accounts of Communist activities in Chile and abroad.

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Support of the Government's anti-Communist policy and its implementation of the Law for the Defense of Democracy is consistent, but criticism of the Government in the economic field is frequent and outspoken. Reports on criticisms directed against Government bureaucracy, excessive expenditures, and the high cost of living are not infrequently followed by remarks from the announcer ridiculing the inefficiency of Government operations. A daily review of Santiago newspaper editorials includes frequent unfavorable comment on Administration measures, abuses perpetrated by public service companies, and ineffective Government economic policies.

In line with the station's general editorial policy, news from abroad, generally credited to the ASSOCIATED PRESS, is frequently colored for listener interest and sometimes distorted. Reports carried by this station on anti-Government activities in Argentina and Peru are seldom received over other Latin American transmitters.

b. News Presentation: Presentation of the news is haphazard: Casts are poorly edited and announcers stumble over words and misread scripts without correcting themselves.

3. Radio Sociedad Nacional de Agricultura

a. Editorial Policy: Short-wave station CE1180, owned by the National Agricultural Society, carries Esso Reporter newscasts containing concise reportage on Chilean and international affairs, prepared from UNITED PRESS files. Reportage is restrained, objective, and totally lacking in sensationalism. Reports on criticism of the Government are seldom broadcast. Considerable attention is given the activities of the conservative parties, with reports on party sessions and quotations from speeches by party leaders treated extensively. There is little emphasis on labor union activities beyond factual reportage of major disputes.

b. News Presentation: Newscasts appear competently edited and read by well-trained announcers.

4. Radio Sociedad Nacional de Minería

Short-wave station CE622, owned by the National Mining Society, carries domestic news from the TRANSCON and PRIC agencies and international news credited to REUTERS. Political, Government, and congressional news is presented in a restrained, objective manner, and appears competently edited.

E. COLOMBIA

1. General Characteristics

a. Official Censorship: Radio broadcasting in Colombia operates under an overt censorship imposed by the Government under the state of siege decreed in November 1949. The private radio industry, organized on commercial lines, operates in competition with the powerful transmitters of the official Radiodifusora Nacional de Colombia. All programs are required to conform to the provisions of various Government decrees regulating the presentation of news and commentaries, announcing, broadcast time, and so forth.

b. Clandestine Transmitters: Clandestine transmitters are known to have been operating from various points in Colombia. Their broadcasts feature the views of the political opposition, which, under the stringent censorship regulations and the complete control exercised by the party in power, is unable to make itself heard over legitimate broadcast channels.

The Government, under regulations designed to meet this situation, has taken steps to eliminate clandestine radio broadcasting. The discovery and seizure in June 1951 of a clandestine station known as "Colombia Libre" were followed by orders for the arrest of a number of Liberal Party members, including the director of the National Party Board, on charges of rebellion, sabotage, and the instigation and defense of crimes through the operation of the clandestine station, said to have been managed by the Liberal Party Board. Another clandestine transmitter was discovered in July in the possession of an employee of the Westinghouse Company.

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2. Radiodifusora Nacional de Colombia

The Official Viewpoint: Operated and controlled by the Government, Radiodifusora Nacional serves as the principal vehicle for presenting news to the home audience from the official point of view. Its programs are evidently designed to enhance the prestige of the Government and to secure support for Government policies.

The newscasts regularly contain detailed reportage on Government measures, official appointments, and Government actions in the foreign policy field. Political news is not broadcast except insofar as it relates to official action against the political opposition and to official refutation of allegations made by opponents of the regime.

Every opportunity is taken to emphasize Colombia's democratic tradition, the restoration of normality under the present regime, and popular support given the Government's efforts. Messages from sectors of the population in various parts of the country are from time to time read at great length to demonstrate the popular backing enjoyed by the Government.

Executive decrees, by which the country is governed under the state of siege, are broadcast textually in an apparent attempt to underscore the legality of Government acts despite the suspension of normal democratic processes. Particular care has been taken to refute in detail, with lengthy quotations from constitutional provisions, legal precedents, and the opinion of experts, the charges made by the opposition that Government actions are legally invalid.

News items on economic progress emphasize the Government's work in the field of social welfare, new benefits accruing to labor under the progressive policies of the regime, and the benefits gained by the country as a whole through the Government's efforts to achieve stability.

Stress is consistently laid on Colombia's adherence to the United Nations and the friendly relations existing with the United States. Colombia's contribution to the U.N. efforts in Korea has been played up repeatedly, and the work of U.S. and U.N. technicians in Colombia has been given wide publicity.

World news reports are taken from the Latin American and European wires of the AFP.

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G. PERU1. General Characteristics

a. Government Control: Radio broadcasting in Peru serves primarily as a vehicle for the presentation to the Peruvian public of carefully screened and selected material designed to enhance the prestige and power of the Odria regime. Although only three of the twelve radio stations in Lima are Government-owned, they include the two most powerful transmitters in Peru, OAX4Z and OAX4A (Radio Nacional), operating, respectively, with 50 and 20 kilowatts. The strongest privately owned transmitters in the country, Lima transmitters OAX4U and OAX4V (Radio America), owned by the Peruvian Broadcasting Co., Inc., operate with 10 kilowatts and 1 kilowatt, respectively.

b. Restrictive Decrees: The official transmitters enjoy a virtual monopoly over the news as the result of the imposition and strict enforcement by the Government of numerous restrictions on the operation of commercial stations. An attempt in 1949 by the privately owned OAX4V/OAX4U to ignore a Government resolution ordering all radio stations to carry the official newscasts of the Government's Radio Nacional del Peru was met with a heavy fine and temporary closure of the stations' plants. Possibly as a means of circumventing, at least partially, the requirement that they must relay the official newscasts, the majority of the Peruvian stations begin their broadcast day after the earliest of the official news programs has already been broadcast over the Government radio.

Experimental monitoring of privately owned stations has yielded little in the way of significant material in view of the lack of freedom allowed private broadcasters. FBID monitoring of Peruvian broadcasts has hence been restricted almost exclusively to the official newscasts carried by the Government radio.

2. Radio Nacional del Peru

a. The Official Viewpoint: Utilization of the radio to propagate the Government point of view was well exemplified during the period preceding the July 1950 presidential election. For several months prior to the election, the official newscasts were heavily weighted with daily, almost identical messages expressing support of Gen. Odria's candidacy, signed by groups of workers, members of organizations, or citizens of small towns. Newscasts ran overtime to permit the reading of long lists of signatures to the messages.

The activities of opponents of the Government are mentioned obliquely if at all over Radio Nacional, which stresses the official rebuttal of criticism without detailing the criticism itself and limits its reportage on opposition activity to disclosing Government action against it. News of the registration of opposition candidate Ernesto Montagne in the 1950 election was not heard over the Peruvian radio, nor was radio time made available to the opposition during the campaign. Radio Nacional mentioned Montagne only to report that he had been disqualified and to refute later charges that his disqualification was illegal.

Similarly, mention of the outlawed Aprista Party has been restricted to occasional brief reports concerning effective Government action against abortive plots, in which the Apristas are invariably linked with the Communists, and to occasional denunciations of APRA activities in station commentaries.

A review of newspaper editorials added late in 1950 as a daily feature over Radio Nacional uses only three papers as sources: the Government-owned EL CALLAO and EL PERUANO, and EL COMERCIO, oldest major conservative daily in Peru.

b. The Argentine Pattern: A striking similarity has been observed since the advent of the Odria regime between the Argentine official Radio del Estado and Peru's Radio Nacional. Argentina's efforts under Peron to develop a "standard" idiom for radio broadcasting appear to have been paralleled in Peru, and an evident improvement in the language used over the Peruvian radio has been noted.

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Again paralleling the Argentine format Radio Nacional regularly opens one of its newscasts with a commentary, or "Note of the Day," praising past, present, and future accomplishments of the regime, and both official newscasts give prominence to descriptions of the daily routine activities of the Chief of State and to statistical data designed to reflect the economic well-being of the country. In further apparent imitation, Radio Nacional now carries reports concerning the daily activities of the President's wife, resembling Radio del Estado's detailed reportage on the activities of Eva Peron. The Peruvian official casts, like those of Argentina, devote little or no time to world news and consist almost entirely of items of purely local interest.

Just as the official Argentine radio is attempting to attract a wider listening audience by cutting into the operational field of the commercial network through the hiring of popular entertainers, so Radio Nacional has been playing up the "native Peruvian cultural heritage," hiring musicians and entertainers to present programs over the air. Symphonic programs are regularly interspersed with slogans praising Odría's accomplishments and promising future prosperity ("Future Peruvian generations will remember the name of Odría as the man who has won for ever more the economic freedom of the country!")

Peru's apparent interest in Argentina is reflected also in a weekly "Argentine Cultural Hour" over the official radio, consisting largely of Argentine music, poetry, and other literary readings.

H. Uruguay

1. General Characteristics

Freedom of Broadcasting: Uruguayan radio broadcasting is characterized by the broad freedom existing in the country for all forms of public expression. The official SODRE (Servicio Oficial de Difusion Radio Electrica) operates on Government funds side by side with the private stations and does not interfere with the activities of commercial broadcasters.

Apart from the Radio Broadcasting Code, there are no governmental controls or restrictions on radio emissions. There is no censorship, although the Broadcasting Code was revised in 1946 to conform to a law authorizing the Government to take sanctions against those held responsible for the dissemination of material which might affect Uruguay's friendly relations with other nations. It was under this law that Radio El Espectador was forced in 1949 to discontinue broadcasting the "Paraguayan Hour," sponsored by a group of political exiles opposed to the regime in power, following a formal protest from the Paraguayan Government.

Montevideo serves as the TASS headquarters for Latin America as a whole, and dispatches concerning developments in all Latin American countries are filed to Moscow via the Montevideo communications transmitters.

2. Radio El Espectador

a. Newscasts: The key station in the Difusoras del Uruguay commercial network, which includes medium-wave transmitters in a number of Uruguayan cities, Radio El Espectador in Montevideo carries several daily five-minute "Eso Reporter" newscasts consisting of items credited to the UNITED PRESS, with 60 percent or more of the broadcast time allotted to international news coverage. Two newscasts of at least 15 minutes' duration, carrying reports credited to the UP, AFP, and ANI wire services, also emphasize world news coverage, presented in considerable detail.

b. Special Programs and Features: Radio El Espectador carries in addition a number of programs for cultural, political, and labor groups at home and abroad. During the 1950 election campaign it carried propaganda of the country's major political parties, to which radio time appeared to be leased with complete impartiality. An international news commentary is broadcast for listeners at home and abroad, and programs in French, Spanish, Polish, and Italian are presented by local sponsoring groups. A thrice weekly program dealing with life and culture in the USSR, sponsored by the Uruguayan-Soviet Cultural Institute, contains cultural and entertainment features only.

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I. VENEZUELA**CONFIDENTIAL**1. General Characteristics

Government Censorship: Censorship of the press and radio has been in effect in Venezuela since the overthrow of the Romulo Gallegos regime in 1948. Although constitutional guarantees remain suspended and strict censorship is still practiced by the Military Junta, privately owned stations are permitted to operate under the surveillance of Government officials side by side with the Government-owned Radiodifusora Nacional in Caracas. The more important privately owned stations are controlled by large industrial concerns and sustained almost entirely by radio advertising. Monitoring of these stations has yielded little in the way of significant material, however, in view of the stringent enforcement of the censorship regulations.

2. Radiodifusora Nacional

a. The Official Mouthpiece: The official Government radio, operating both independently and in hook-up with commercial stations, serves primarily as a medium for broadcasting official announcements, speeches, and decrees of the Military Junta. Considerable time is regularly kept open for special announcements, with programs of music and entertainment featured in the absence of official material.

Newscasts contain a preponderance of official statistics on Venezuelan imports, exports, and production of exportable products. Close attention is given the progress of the Government's public works program and gains in the field of social welfare, and detailed explanations of laws affecting Venezuelan industry and of international treaties affecting Venezuela are broadcast periodically.

b. Absence of Format: News programs give constant evidence of an almost complete lack of organization and editing. In addition to a consistent lack of punctuality and failure to adhere to announced program schedules, many of the programs appear to have no set format as to content and arrangement of material. Lengthy and relatively minor Government decrees are read in full, with no cutting or explanatory remarks by the announcer, and official statistics are read in what appears to be their original form, with no effort made to tailor them for listener interest or to sum up their significance.

c. Programs Beamed Abroad: Radiodifusora Nacional carries weekly newscasts in French and English, reporting in some detail on important domestic issues, with the stress always on Venezuelan progress in various fields of endeavor and on the advantages the country holds for foreign capital. In contrast to the official Spanish-language programs, these newscasts appear carefully organized and well edited with a view to presenting Venezuela in the most favorable light.

3. Commercially Sponsored Programs

a. YVKR Caracas: Radio Caracas, controlled by a commercial organization, carries a number of brief Esso Reporter newscasts containing world news credited to the UNITED PRESS and brief items of national interest.

b. YVMG Maracaibo: Radio Popular, controlled by Jose Higuera, carries several programs of domestic and international news largely on the provincial and city level. A half-hour daily newscast usually includes an editorial from the DIARIO DEL OCCIDENTE. Local news consists largely of crime reports and human-interest material, and the national news is sketchy and seems poorly edited.

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